

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /082 W
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P R 112035Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7065
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAPAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 2931

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJECT: FIGUEIREDO NOMINATED, ASKS FOR "CONCILIATION AND UNDER-
STANDING"

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL FIGUEIREDO AND MINAS GERAIS GOVERNOR
AURELIANO CHAVES WERE OFFICIALLY NOMINATED APRIL 8 AS
ARENA'S CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN
THE INDIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OCTOBER 15. FIGUEIREDO
ADDRESSED THE CONVENTION THE NIGHT OF APRIL 9. HE COM-
MITTED HIMSELF TO A SEARCH FOR "A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
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SOCIAL STRUCTURE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS
FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS". TO HIS MIND, HE SAID,
THIS WOULD CONSIST OF AN "ACTIVE" MULTI-PARTY LEGISLATURE,
A "DYNAMIC" JUDICIARY, AND A STRONG EXECUTIVE "CONSCIOUS OF
ITS MISSION". FIGUEIREDO CAUTIONED THAT THIS CANNOT COME
ABOUT "ALL AT ONE. GRADUALNESS IS ESSENTIAL"--A THEME GEISEL
HAS STRESSED FOR MONTHS. PROCLAIMING "THE HOUR IS FOR CON-

CILIATION AND UNDERSTANDING", HE CALLED ON ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY TO A WORK "RESPONSIBLY" TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL, AND URGED ARENA TO WORK HARD TO WIN THE NOVEMBER 15 CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS SO AS TO "GUARANTEE THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS". FIGUEIREDO'S ADDRESS HAS INITIALLY BEEN VIEWED CAUTIOUSLY AS A MODEST "DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS".
END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL FIGUEIREDO AND MINAS GERAIS GOVERNOR AURELIANO CHAVES WERE OFFICIALLY NOMINATED APRIL 8 AS "CANDIDATES" FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, RESPECTIVELY, AT ARENA'S NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN BRASILIA DURING APRIL 8-9. VOTE IN SECRET BALLOT WAS 775 FOR TICKET, 2 AGAINST, AND 25 BLANK WHICH, ACCORDING TO CONVENTION RULES, ARE COUNTED IN SUPPORT OF TICKET. A FEW DELEGATES DID NOT ATTEND. THERE WAS, OF COURSE, NO COMPETITION, SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO HAVING REMOVED HIMSELF FROM CONSIDERATION ON MARCH 27 (RIO 1443).

3. IN HIS FIRST POLITICAL SPEECH, FIGUEIREDO ADDRESSED THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE CONVENTION THE NIGHT OF APRIL 9. AFTER ACKNOWLEDGING HIS DEBTS TO HIS LATE FATHER (A GENERAL IN THE CLASSIC LIBERAL MOLD), TO PRESIDENTS MEDICI AND GEISEL (FOR HIS EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT) AND TO THE ARMY (FOR HIS 43-YEAR CAREER), FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT BRAZIL IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER STAGE IN ITS REVOLUTIONARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS: IN SEARCH OF A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS. REJECTING THE IDEAS OF THOSE (ON THE LEFT) WHO HARBOR "UTOPIAN EXPECTATIONS" AND THOSE (ON THE RIGHT) WHO BASE THEIR THINKING ON "OUTMODED CONCEPTS" OF SECURITY, FIGUEIREDO OPTED FOR THOSE WHO "SEEK A PROGRESSIVE INSTITUTIONAL CONSOLIDATION WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE STATE WITH INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS WITH WHICH TO SERVE THE PEOPLE, EXECUTE ITS WILL AND PRESERVE IT AGAINST THE ACTIONS OF PREDATORY OR DOMINATING MINORITIES".

4. FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT, TO HIS MIND, THE MOST APPROPRIATE STRUCTURE WOULD BE ONE BASED UPON: (A) "AN ACTIVE LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VARIOUS CURRENTS IN THE ELECTORATE" (I.E., BY A MULTI-PARTY RATHER THAN A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM); (B) "A DYNAMIC JUDICIARY, RESPECTED IN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND AUTHORITY", AND (C) "AN EXECUTIVE CONSCIOUS OF ITS MISSION, AGILE, HONEST, POLITICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY STRONG". CLAIMING TO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF THIS "REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVE" FROM THE OUTSET (IN 1964), CITING ITS RETROGRESSION IN 1968 WITH THE ISSUANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO. 5, AND NOTING MORE RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE, FIGUEIREDO

WAS MOST LOUDLY APPLAUDED WHEN HE SAID "AND NOW WE ARE MUCH CLOSER TO OUR DEMOCRATIC GOAL--AND WE WILL GET THERE".

5. FIGUEIREDO CAUTIONED THAT "REFORMS CANNOT BE COMPLETED ALL AT ONCE. GRADUALNESS IS ESSENTIAL TO THEM, SO AS NOT TO OVERWHELM SOCIETY OR DISARM THE GOVERNMENT". HE STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND MEASURES WHICH WOULD "MAKE COMPATIBLE THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, MAINTAIN A FREE PRESS CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY, FAVOR A POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE CAPABLE OF ENCOMPASSING (VARYING) TENDENCIES IN THE ELECTORATE, AND STRUCTURE A LABOR ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD GIVE FAIR VALUE TO THE FORCE OF LABOR". WITH REGARD TO LABOR, FIGUEIREDO STRESSED THE NEED TO "REDUCE SOCIAL DISEQUILIBRIUM" AND PROMISED A "GREAT EFFORT" IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIELDS OF "PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, NUTRITION, HEALTH, FOOD, HYGIENE AND SAFETY OF THE MILLIONS OF BRAZILIAN WORKERS".

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /082 W
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P R 112035Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7066
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAPAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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6. FIGUEIREDO EMPHASIZED THAT THE ENTIRE NATION, NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT, MUST WORK TOWARDS BRAZIL'S FULL DEVELOPMENT, AND CALLED SPECIFICALLY ON "SOCIETY'S MOST ORGANIZED SECTORS"--IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER--TO DO THEIR PART: LABOR, RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURS, "LIBERAL PROFESSIONALS, EMPLOYERS AND ASSOCIATIONS", MASS COMMUNICATION PERSONNEL, INTELLECTUALS, STUDENTS, EDUCATORS AND TEACHERS, CHURCHMEN, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AND THE MILITARY.

7. FIGUEIREDO CONCLUDED BY COMMITTING HIMSELF TO CONTINUING GEISEL'S WORK OF "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSOLIDATION",
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AND CALLING ON THE POLITICAL CLASS--AND PARTICULARLY ARENA--TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. ARENA, HE NOTED, WILL REMAIN THE MAJORITY PARTY "IF A PARTY SPIRIT PREVAILS OVER PERSONAL DIFFERENCES AND PAROCHIAL INTERESTS". PROMISING TO DEVOTE HIMSELF WHOLE-HEARTEDLY TO THE CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, FIGUEIREDO STRESSED THE THESIS THAT A STRONG, UNIFIED AND VICTORIOUS ARENA "WILL GUARANTEE THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS ANXIOUSLY AWAITED BY A PEOPLE THAT WANTS ORDER, TRANQUILITY, SECURITY, AND POLITICAL STABILITY WITHOUT STAGNATION OR IMMOBILITY." HE ENDED BY PROCLAIMING THAT "THE HOUR IS ONE FOR CONCILIATION AND UNDERSTANDING."

8. FIGUEIREDO'S VIEWS ON ECONOMIC POLICY ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

9. COMMENT: FIGUEIREDO'S ADDRESS HAS BEEN VIEWED INITIALLY--AND SOMEWHAT CAUTIOUSLY--AS A MEASURED, MODERATE "DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS" IN WHICH THE ONLY NEW ELEMENT IS THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOW FORMALLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO IMPLEMENTING THE GRADUAL, CAREFUL OPENING OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO BE SET IN MOTION BY PRESIDENT GEISEL BY THE END OF HIS TERM. WITH REGARD TO THE PACE AT WHICH THIS IS TO OCCUR, IT IS WELL TO RECALL GEISEL'S WORDS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BONN JUST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO BRAZIL ON MARCH 10: "WE ARE MOVING SLOWLY, WITH MUCH CARE, BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT ARE TOO ADVANCED AND WHICH COULD TOMORROW COMPEL THE LEADERS (SIC) TO TURN BACK. IT IS PREFERABLE TO GO SLOWLY, IN THE MEASURE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, THAN DARINGLY TO TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE AND THEN HAVE A RETROGRESSION, AS WE HAVE ALREADY HAD AT VARIOUS

TIMES IN OUR HISTORY".

JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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